

Remarks

This amendment responds to the Office Action dated February 16, 2005. A declaration is enclosed listing the provisional patent applications. Since the Patent Office granted the petition to prosecute the application without the signature of inventor Schoell (see Decision dated November 2, 2004), his signature is not needed on the enclosed declaration.

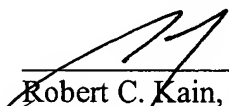
It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 now recites: “carrying on its exterior one or more engine accessories ~~such as~~ from the group of engine accessories consisting of a supercharger, an alternator and a water pump,” and that is different than claim 15 which recites: “the bell housing carrying on its exterior a supercharger, an alternator and a water pump.” In other words, the term “one or more” in claim 1 indicates that not all listed accessories are mounted on the engine but can be mounted on the engine. Claim 15 specifically recites that all these accessories are mounted on the engine. Hence, there is no double patenting. There exists a possibility that a third party may not have a supercharger mounted on the engine but that engine may be capable of mounting a supercharger thereon. This system is covered under claim 1 but potentially not covered under claim 15 which requires a supercharger. Since the scope of the claims are different, there is no double patenting.

Claim 24 recites: “the bell housing carrying on its exterior one or more engine accessories ~~such as~~ from the group of engine accessories consisting of a supercharger, an alternator and a water pump, the marine engine having a crank shaft extending into an interior space of the bell housing and coupled to a flywheel” whereas claim 1 recites: “the bell housing carrying on its exterior one or more engine accessories ~~such as~~ from the group of engine accessories consisting of a supercharger,

an alternator and a water pump, the marine engine having a crank shaft extending into an interior space of the bell housing and coupled to a flywheel, the bell housing enclosing a geared transmission which is coupled to said crank shaft.” Claim 1 recites a “bell housing enclosing a geared transmission” and claim 24 does not have that recitation. Therefore, there exists a possibility that an infringer may not have the geared transmission extending into the bell housing and such system infringes claim 24 but does not infringe claim 1. Hence, there is no double patenting.

It is respectfully requested that the examiner withdraw the rejections and approve the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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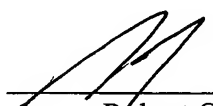
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